

Brennan Gardner Rivas

Curriculum Vitae · Jan 2023

Employment

Lloyd Lewis Fellow in American History, The Newberry Library, 2021-2022
Bill & Rita Clements Fellow for the Study of Southwestern America, Southern Methodist University, Clements Center for Southwest Studies, 2020-2021
Lecturer in American History (full-time), Texas Christian University, Department of History, 2019-2020

Education

Ph.D., History, Texas Christian University, 2019
Thesis: “[The Deadly Weapon Laws of Texas](#): Regulating Guns, Knives, & Knuckles in the Lone Star State, 1836-1930”
Advisor: [Gregg Cantrell](#)
M.A., History, Texas Christian University, 2013
Thesis: “Texas Antitrust Law: Formulation and Enforcement, 1889-1903”
B.A. with Honors, History, Oklahoma State University, 2010

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles

“[An Unequal Right to Bear Arms](#): State Weapons Laws and White Supremacy in Texas, 1836-1900,” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 121 (Jan 2018): 284-303.

Law Articles

“Strange Bedfellows: Racism and Gun Rights in American History and Current Scholarship” in Joseph Blocher and Jake Charles, eds., *New Histories of Gun Rights and Regulation: Essays on the Place of Guns in American Law and Society* (New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming)

“[Enforcement of Public Carry Restrictions: Texas as a Case Study](#),” *U.C. Davis Law Review* (May 2022)

“[The Problem with Assumptions: Reassessing the Historical Gun Policies of Arkansas and Tennessee](#),” *Second Thoughts*, Duke Center for Firearms Law (Jan 2022)

Short Pieces

“Charles F. Cooley,” in [Wanted in America: Posters Collected by the Fort Worth Police Department, 1898-1903](#), edited by LeAnna Schooley and Tom Kellam. Fort Worth: TCU Press, 2019.

Review of David R. Berman, *George Hunt: Arizona’s Crusading Seven-Term Governor*, in [Southwestern Historical Quarterly](#) 114, no. 3 (January 2016): 327-329.

Public History

“[In the Past, Americans Confronted Gun Violence by Taking Action](#),” *Washington Post: Made by History Blog* (Jun 2022)

- ~ Op-ed showcasing open-mindedness of 19th century Americans about experimenting with new gun control measures
- “[The Origin of Public Carry Laws in Texas](#),” *Texas Gun Sense Blog* (Feb 2021)
- “[Texas Gun Laws](#),” Online Primary Source Collection, hosted by [Omeka](#)
 - ~ Online collection featuring primary sources from my research; feature exhibit titled “Crafting a Public Carry Law”
- “[The Deadly Weapon Laws of Texas](#),” Preserving Our Past: Community History Workshop, Center for Texas Studies at TCU (Nov 2020)
 - ~ Public lecture featuring special insights for genealogical researchers
- “The Deadly Weapon Laws of Texas,” Graduate/Undergraduate Public History Seminar, Tarleton State University (Sept 2020)
 - ~ Research presentation focusing on interpretation of county court records
- “[When Texas Was the National Leader in Gun Control](#): How the Land of Gunslinger Mythology Regulated Weapons to Reduce Violence,” *Washington Post: Made by History Blog* (Sept 2019)
 - ~ Op-ed highlighting long history of weapon regulation in Texas

Fellowships and Awards

Lloyd Lewis Fellowship in American History, 2021-2022

- ~ Awarded by the Newberry Library to scholars using its collection to research topics in American history

Bill & Rita Clements Fellowship for the Study of Southwestern America, 2020-2021

- ~ Awarded by the SMU Clements Center for Southwest Studies to two scholars of Texas, the Southwest, or the U.S.-Mexico borderlands who are developing first books

The Benjamin W. Schmidt Memorial Scholarship, 2018-2019

- ~ Awarded by the TCU Department of History to a PhD candidate who shows exceptional professional promise; highest departmental prize for graduate students

Texas Christian University Department of History, Shinko and Thomas McDonald Research Prize in Texas History, 2019, 2017

- ~ Awarded by the TCU Department of History to a graduate student with the best research on antebellum Texas history

Works in Progress

The Revolver Must Go: The Rise and Fall of a Gun Control Movement in Texas

Aim: Scholarly monograph exploring the rise of a gun control movement in nineteenth-century Texas and the regulatory strategies which it embraced. Widespread acceptance of strict, ambitious gun control laws in the “Wild West” belies current assumptions about Texas and challenges the reigning interpretation of the Second Amendment as a guarantor of expansive gun rights

Status: Editing manuscript

“The Texas Anti-Trust Movement: Antimonopoly, Populism, and Reform in the Long Progressive Era”

Aim: Scholarly article interpreting Texas antitrust policy an example of innovative reform in the Great Plains and trans-Mississippi West

Status: Research and writing in progress

University Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record

Lecturer in American History, Texas Christian University 2019-2020
“American History to 1877: Social Movements & the Politics of Slavery” (HIST 10603)
“American History since 1877: The Quest for Equality” (HIST 10613)
“History of Texas: A Transnational Look at the American Southwest” (HIST 40743)

Graduate Student Instructor

Teaching Assistant, Texas Christian University 2017-2018
American History to 1877 (HIST 10603)
American History since 1877 (HIST 10613)

Teaching Interests

American History, Legal History, Southwestern Borderlands, Civil War Era, American West, Gilded Age & Progressive Era, Women’s History

Conference Presentations & Invited Talks

“A Case for More Case Studies,” Originalism, the Supreme Court, Gun Laws, and History, Late-Breaking Roundtable, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 2023
“Military Disarmament Orders and the Role of Reconstruction Historiography after *Bruen*,” Current Perspectives on the History of Guns and Society Symposium, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, October 2022
“Reassessing Assumptions about Historical Arkansas and Tennessee Handgun Regulations,” Race and Guns Roundtable, Duke Center for Firearms Law, Durham, North Carolina, November 2021
“Enforcement of Public Carry Restrictions: Texas as a Case Study,” The Second Amendment at the Supreme Court: 700 Years of History and the Modern Effects of Guns in Public, Davis, California, October 2021
“Race & Guns,” Newberry Library Colloquium, Chicago, Illinois, October 2021
“Unlawful Carrying: Enforcing the Pistol Law in Texas, 1870-1920,” Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting, Corpus Christi, Texas, February 2019
“Regulating Deadly Weapons in Nineteenth-Century Texas,” Invited Lecturer, Los Bexareños Hispanic Genealogical and Historical Conference, San Antonio, Texas, September 2018
“Impregnable Citadels of Capital: American Monopolies in the British Radical Press,” Southern Conference on British Studies Annual Meeting, St. Pete Beach, Florida, November 2016
“Dating Violence in Texas: Why the State Family Code Obstructs Accurate Reporting about Sexual Assault,” TCU Women & Gender Studies Research Symposium, 2015

Service

Invited Guest, “How to Make the Most of Your Time in Graduate School,” Dept. of History Orientation Day, 2020
~ Advise incoming graduate students on strategies for success in the PhD program, emphasizing importance of intellectual development

Panelist, “Everything You Wanted to Know about TCU but Were Too Afraid to Ask,” Dept. of History Orientation Day, 2016

~ Provide honest and confidential information to prospective graduate students

Graduate Student Mentor, 2015

~ Informal departmental program designed to ease the transition for incoming graduate students

Second Amendment Subject Matter Expert

Duncan et al v. Bonta, California, Case No. 17-1017-BEN-JLB

Miller et al v. Bonta, California, Case No. 3:19-cv-01537-BEN-JLB

Angelo et al v. District of Columbia et al, Washington, D.C., Civ. Act. No. 1:22-cv-01878-RDM

Hanson et al v. District of Columbia et al, Washington, D.C., Civ. Act. No. 1:22-cv-02256-RC

Christian et al v. Nigrelli et al, New York, No. 22-cv-00695 (JLS)

Frey et al v. Nigrelli et al, New York, Case No. 21 Civ. 5334 (NSR)

Brumback et al v. Ferguson et al, Washington, No. 1:22-cv-03093-MKD

Sullivan et al v. Ferguson et al, Washington, Case No. 3:22-cv-5403

Professional Memberships

Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era

Texas State Historical Association

Southern Historical Association

American Historical Association

Languages

Spanish (Proficient)

Latin (Proficient)